Words That Work

Read how one speaker changes her words and voice for different purposes.

3.LF.2 "Present information orally using complex sentence structures, appropriate volume, and clear pronunciation. a. Use oral language for different purposes: to inform, to entertain, to persuade, to clarify, and to respond."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence Maya says to inform, entertain, persuade, and clarify. Circle the word in each underlined sentence that joins two ideas.

Maya's Seed Plan

1. Maya held up a small cup of soil and told her class about a plan to grow sunflowers. "Because sunflower seeds need water to sprout, we will keep the soil damp, not soaked," she said. She spoke loudly enough for the back row to hear and said "damp" carefully. "If we put the cups near a sunny window, the young plants can get the light they need."

2. Then Maya pretended a tiny sprout was talking. "When I pushed up through the dirt, I thought the sun was a giant flashlight!" she said in a squeaky voice. The class laughed, but Maya kept her words clear. "Please save your clean yogurt cups for our seeds, because reusing cups means we will not need to buy new ones," she added at a volume the whole room could hear.

3. "Do we pour water into the cups every day?" asked Luis. Maya answered, "No. If the soil still feels damp, wait until the top feels dry before adding a little water." Luis frowned and asked, "Does damp mean dripping wet?" Maya replied, "Although damp soil feels a little wet, it should not drip." She slowed down and said "dripping" clearly so everyone could follow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence does Maya use to inform the class about watering seeds? What reason does it give?

2. Which sentence does Maya use to entertain the class? How does she change her voice?

3. What does Maya ask the class to do when she tries to persuade them? How does she make sure they hear her?

4. How does Maya clarify what "damp" means when she responds to Luis? What does she do to help listeners understand?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence talk about a new recess game. Persuade your class using because or if, include a question a classmate might ask and your answer to clarify a rule, and tell how you will use your voice. Then say your talk aloud.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Work

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence Maya says to inform, entertain, persuade, and clarify. Circle the word in each underlined sentence that joins two ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence does Maya use to inform the class about watering seeds? What reason does it give?	**"Because sunflower seeds need water to sprout, we will keep the soil damp, not soaked." It explains that the seeds need water to sprout.**
2	Which sentence does Maya use to entertain the class? How does she change her voice?	**She pretends the sprout thought the sun was a giant flashlight. She uses a squeaky voice while keeping her words clear.**
3	What does Maya ask the class to do when she tries to persuade them? How does she make sure they hear her?	**She asks them to save clean yogurt cups for the seeds. She speaks at a volume the whole room can hear.**
4	How does Maya clarify what "damp" means when she responds to Luis? What does she do to help listeners understand?	**She says damp soil feels a little wet but should not drip. She slows down and says "dripping" clearly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Let's play Follow the Leader because we can start without equipment. Can we run when we play? No, we will walk if the playground is crowded so everyone can stay safe. I will speak loudly enough for everyone to hear and say each word clearly.

For the marking job, accept either informative sentence about the seeds or the window. Check that students circle a joining word in each sentence they underline, such as because, when, or although.